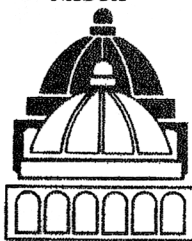


NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION  
OF STATE UNITS  
ON AGING



NASUA

1201 15th Street, N.W.  
Suite 350  
Washington, DC 20005-2842  
(202) 898-2578  
(202) 898-2583 (fax)  
web: www.nasua.org

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July 20, 2004

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

DANIEL A. QUIRK, PhD

The Honorable Edward Markey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2108 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Markey:

The National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA) applauds you for your vision and leadership in introducing the "Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2004" (H.R. 4595). The Act has enormous potential to increase the capacity of states and local organizations to provide services to caregivers, provide financial relief to caregivers through tax credits, and to promote breakthroughs in research on Alzheimer's disease.

We appreciate your support of the millions of caregivers who assist older people and people with disabilities, caring for them in their homes and communities and enabling them to avoid premature or inappropriate placement in an institution. Supporting caregivers by improving the support system currently in place and providing financial support through the tax code are sound policies that will ease their burden and allow them to continue to provide these valuable services.

NASUA looks forward to working with you and other members of Congress and the Administration to ensure legislation passes this year that will assist in supporting our nation's caregivers and facilitate advances in medical research to address Alzheimer's disease and other illnesses that affect older people.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Quirk, PhD  
Executive Director

STATES UNITED FOR ACTION IN AGING